Doc Code: AP.PRE.REQ

PTO/SB/33 (12-08) Approved for use through 01/31/2009, OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

084-06 Filed May 31, 2006 Uwe Hauf Examiner Sylvia MacArthur
May 31, 2006 Uwe Hauf Examiner Sylvia MacArthur
Uwe Hauf Examiner Sylvia MacArthur
Examiner Sylvia MacArthur
Examiner Sylvia MacArthur
Sylvia MacArthur
amendments are being filed
/JFM/
Signature
John F. McNulty
oed or printed name
215-568-4900
·
215-568-4900
_

This collection of information is required by 38 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO opposes) an application. Confidentially is governed by 36 U.S.C. 122. and 37 CRF 1.11, 1.14 and 4.16. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including pathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. An opposition of the Complete is complete in the size manufactor suppositions for reducing this budder, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Tradeamark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1469, Assandria, VA 22151-1460. DI NOT ESIMD 22151-1460. The Complete Complet

PATENT Application Serial No. 10/581,353 Filing Date: May 31, 2006 Attorney Docket No. 084-06

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

Application S	Serial No. 10)/581,353)	
Applicants:	Uwe Hauf Henry Kunze Ferdinand Wiener)))	Examiner: Sylvia MacArthur Art Unit: 1792
Filing Date:	May 31, 2	2006)	
Confirmation No. 3626)	

REASONS FOR REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Thoughtful review by 3 Examiners of this $\S 103$ obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection is based on an unfortunate and fatally flawed misunderstanding of the structure of the applied Hennington et al reference.

The only correct factual understanding of the structure of the Hennington et al reference is very easily pointed out herein and mandates withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all of the claims

While there are a number of other factual and legal *issues that have previously been urged in support of patentability, for purposes of **this** review, the Examiners in this panel are urged to focus on a single feature that is required by **all** of the claims and which is not only absent from the Hennington et al reference, but which is precluded by the Hennington et al reference.

The misapplication of the Hennington et al reference is so fatally incorrect that this case should never have to go through the Appeal process to produce an allowance of the claims.

1

^{*}e.g. commercial success.

All of the claims of this case (claims 1-6, 9-24 and 26) *require that at least one of the insertion elements carry or secure:

at least one treatment device...

This patentable feature is completely absent from the prior art!

In the Final Rejection, and in the Advisory Action of October 18, 2010, the Examiner states that it is elements 24 of Hennington et al that are the insertion elements. Those insertion elements do not carry or secure at least one treatment device.

In the Advisory Action of October 18, 2010, the Examiner states:

Hennington et al teaches electrolytic treatment of flat workpieces (PCB's) wherein (sic) insertion elements 24 with treatment devices (fluid delivery apparatus (nozzles 16, 18))

But Hennington et al's elements 24 carry rollers only; they have absolutely nothing to do with carrying or securing a treatment device.

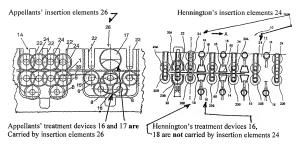
Hennington et al's treatment devices 16, 18 for fluid delivery are clearly **not** in any respect carried or secured by Hennington et al's elements 24.

The treatment devices 16, 18 of Hennington et al have **no insertion elements** to carry or secure them.

Column 5 lines 15-17 establishes that the machine 10 of Hennington et al has a number of fluid delivery apparatus 16, 18. In Fig. 1 of Hennington et al (reproduced to the right, below), those upper and lower fluid delivery devices [treatment devices] 16, 18 of Hennington et al are shown. Note that they are in no respect carried by the apparatus 24 of Hennington et al, which the Examiner is treating as being insertion elements.

2

^{*} see representative claim I at the end hereof.



Appellants' Invention Hennington Fig. 1

It is very important to Appellants' invention that the treatment devices are carried or secured by the insertion elements, because, when it is desired to replace one treatment device for another treatment device, to provide a different treatment, it is simply a matter of taking the insertion element that carries a particular treatment device out of the recess and replacing it with another insertion element that carries a different treatment device. This allows the ready replacement of treatment devices without requiring a reconstruction of the carrier wall, which can save vast amounts of time in changing the apparatus from the ability to provide one treatment from one treatment device, to providing any number of different treatments from a selected different treatment device by a quick and easy replacement of one insertion element for another, without requiring re-working of an entire machine.

Certain of the dependent claims have been rejected over Henington et al in view of either Pender or Haas et al. Nothing whatever in Pender or Haas et al addresses the deficiencies of Henington et al that are described above, in that those secondary references have nothing to do with an insertion element carrying or securing at least one treatment device.

The Examiner's reading of Hennington et al is simply, plainly, and flatly wrong on the facts. The rejection over Hennington et al under §103 is wrong, as a matter of law. Allowance of all of the claims is in order and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/JFM/

John F. McNulty Reg. No. 23,028 Paul & Paul 2900 Two Thousand Market St. Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 568-4900 Direct Dial 267-765-0171 JMcNulty@paulandpaul.com

Claim 1

- A treatment unit for the wet-chemical or electrolytic treatment of flat workpieces, comprising conveying members for transporting the workpieces in the unit on a conveying path, and treatment devices for the workpieces characterized in that the treatment unit further comprises
- a) carrier elements (4, 5) with recesses (21), said carrier elements being oriented to be parallel to the conveying path and wherein all the recesses (21) have the same dimensions and shapes, or wherein a few differently configured groups of recesses are provided in the carrier elements (4, 5), all recesses (21) of one group of recesses (21) having the same dimensions and shapes, and
- at least one module system, each one serving for carrying or securing at least one treatment device, said module system comprising insertion elements (26), said insertion elements (26) being configured such that they are fitted into the recesses (21) of the carrier elements (4, 5),

characterized in that at least one of the insertion elements (26) carry or secure either at least one treatment device or an ensemble of at least one conveying member and at least one treatment device (16, 17);

- c) characterized in that said at least one treatment device (16, 17) is any of:
 - i flow nozzles:
 - ii iet nozzles:
 - iii fan nozzles:
 - iv ultrasonic transducers; and/or
 - v insoluble anodes.